Benchmarks

What is benchmarking?

Benchmarking is a comparison between District programs and comparable external governments to assess environment conditions, performance, and efficiency.

Why are we doing benchmarking?

Benchmarking was mandated by the Performance-Based Budgeting legislation and is part of a good performance management system. Benchmarking:

- Helps identify potential program efficiency opportunities through external comparison
- Helps develop and foster a continuous improvement performance management culture
- Helps identify best in class and shape policy decisions
- Helps us tell our success stories

What benchmarking methodology did we use?

- Identify the factors that impact the performance measure (through review of the literature)
- Identify the factors for which data is readily available
- Identify a moderate sized pool of cities (14) similar to D.C.
- Collect and compare the data for the 14 cities
- Select benchmark cities that have the greatest number of factors similar to D.C.

What are our benchmark cities for Part 1 crime rates?

Philadelphia, Baltimore, Newark, Boston, Milwaukee, and Buffalo

What do we have in common with these six cities?

- Size (over 250,000 population)
- Population density per square mile
- Ratio of sworn officers to population
- Ratio of officers per 1,000 Part 1 Crimes
- Size of 18-24 year-old cohort
- Percent of civilian labor force unemployed
- Percent of families below poverty level
- Percent divorced
- Percentage of female-headed households
- Housing unit density per square mile
- Percentage of renter-occupied housing units
- Climate (temperature range)